

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW LIZARD (VERTICARIA BELDINGI),
FROM CALIFORNIA.

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A RECENT examination of certain specimens of *Verticaria* sent to the Museum for identification made it clear that the specimens from localities north of the Cape St. Lucas region, Lower California, differ in several points, which makes it necessary to regard them as a separate form.

VERTICARIA BELDINGI, new species.

Diagnosis.—Scales bordering gular fold smaller than those on chest between fore legs; frontal usually entirely separated from second supraocular by a row of granules.

Habitat.—Southern California and Lower California, except Cape region.

Type.—U. S. Nat. Museum, No. 11980; Cerros Island, Lower California; L. Belding, collector.

After a careful comparison of three specimens of the present form, viz: the type and two specimens from San Jacinto, San Diego County, Cal., belonging to the museum of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, with 40 specimens from the Cape St. Lucas region, including the types of *Verticaria hyperythra*, I have concluded that the specimens from Cerros Island and Southern California differ in having the scales forming the border of the gular fold considerably smaller than the corresponding scales in *V. hyperythra*, being in the latter of the same size, at least, as the scales covering the chest between the fore legs, while in the new form here described they are perceptibly smaller. I find, moreover, that in 37 out of the 40 specimens of *V. hyperythra* from Cape St. Lucas the frontal shield is in contact with the second supraocular and often with the third as well, while in *V. beldingi* the frontal is separated from all the supraoculars by a complete series of granules. This character is not quite exclusive of *V. beldingi*, since in a lot of specimens collected by Mr. Belding at La Paz, Lower California (Nat. Mus. No. 12613), there are 3 specimens which in this respect agree with *V. beld-*

ingi, though otherwise they are typical *V. hyperythra*. The character is of considerable importance, however, as it appears to hold in more than 90 per cent. of the specimens.

I am under great obligations to the authorities of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, particularly Dr. Charles H. Gilbert, for the opportunity to examine the two specimens from San Jacinto, as with only one specimen in our own collection I should have been unable to appreciate the difference between the two forms.

I take great pleasure in naming this new species after Mr. L. Belding, whose extensive and excellent herpetological collecting in Lower California as well as in Upper California has never been adequately recognized.